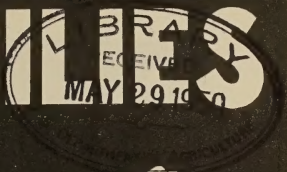
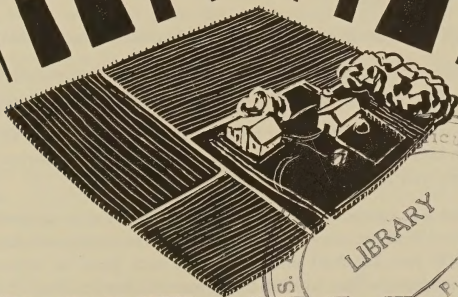
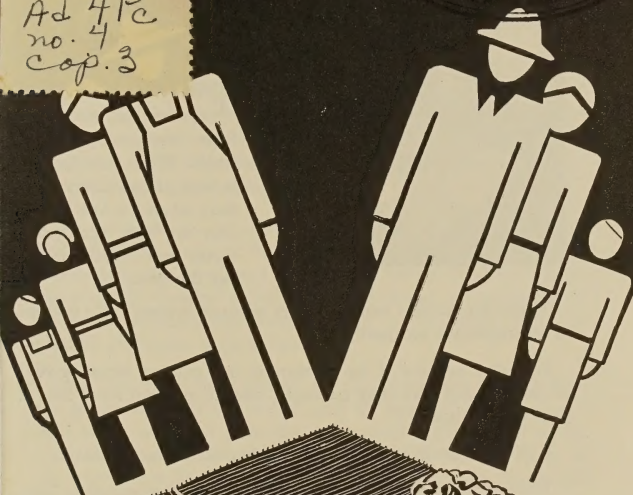


2 FAMILIES



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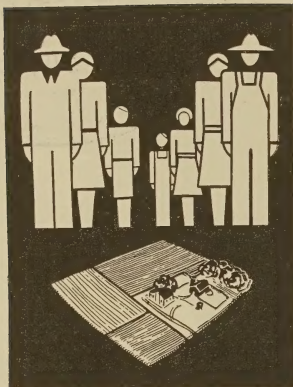


ONE FARM

1.4 Ad 4Pc



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION



Stable Tenure Means Better Producers and Better Consumers

THERE'S a limit to the number of people a farm can carry on its back. When farm income is high, it can carry more than when it is low. Then, only the most productive farms can stand up under the strain.

That's the trouble with the farm tenancy system. It's geared to an abnormal prosperity.

Forty-two percent of the farmers in this country lease or rent all of the land that they cultivate, and 10 percent more rent a part of their land.

Half of all the land in farms in the United States is rented.

More than 16 million people—tenant and sharecropper families—are dependent upon these rented farms for their living.

That indicates how farm tenancy has grown. In large areas of the United States it has proved to be hard on landowner and tenant, and hard on the land itself.

That it is increasingly hard on the landowner is suggested by the fact that tenancy and farm debt have increased together. In 1909 two hundred million dollars was paid as interest on farm mortgage debt; in 1936 about four hundred million was paid.

The system is often hard on the tenant because he is working to support two families—his own and to some extent the landowner's—on a farm not sufficiently productive.

It is hard on the land because the tenant, who is often under pressure to get every last cent of income possible out of the farm, grows too large an acreage of "cash" crops, without replenishing the land through rotations and without protecting it by terraces and contours. The tenant lacks the incentive to conserve the land.

Where farm tenancy is not successful, it either must have its defects remedied or else it must be replaced by something better. The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937 made a beginning in that direction by providing authority for loans to

help a limited number of competent tenants, sharecroppers, and farm laborers buy their own land. The loan in each case must buy a family-sized farm which can be worked without hired help. As additional appropriations are made, the number of loans can be increased.

But those who do remain as tenants also need help. To that end, long-term leases in the form of written contracts have been advocated, with provisions whereby the tenant benefits from the use of sound farming practices. Such leases are promoted by the rural rehabilitation program, and in one State, Iowa, by specific provisions of State law.

The AAA Farm Program, by stabilizing income, benefits both the landowner and the tenant; and by helping to build up fertility in the soil, may make the land equal to the task of taking care of both of them. It provides, also, that tenants share in the adjustment payments in the same proportion as they share in the crop. In the case of soil-building and soil-conserving practices, payments are made according to how much the tenant contributes.

And this aid to the tenant and the landowner is aid to the consumer of farm products as well, because to safeguard the soil is to safeguard the supply of basic food and fiber upon which the consumer must draw.

16—11507

Henry A. Wallace
Administrator.

"There is a point of balance . . . where the welfare of both the farmer and the consumer is best served. And it is that point of balance that we are working toward. That is what the agricultural adjustment program is all about."

—Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace.

Producer-Consumer Leaflets

This is the fourth in a series of 12 leaflets dealing with the various ways in which the problems of farmers and city people are related. The following is the complete list of leaflets in the series:

- PC-1 **And So They Meet.**—Farmers and city people: Both producers—both consumers
- PC-2 **The Things We Want.**—Making abundance work for all our people
- PC-3 **On Tired Soil.**—Poor soil means poor people on the farms and in the cities
- PC-4 **Two Families—One Farm.**—Stable tenure means better producers and better consumers
- PC-5 **To Buy Abundantly.**—Producers of abundance deserve to be consumers of abundance
- PC-6 **Plenty.**—Avoiding the scarcity of famine and overabundance
- PC-7 **Between You And Me.**—The distributor's place in production and consumption
- PC-8 **None Shall Go Hungry.**—Making abundance work for low-income families
- PC-9 **Grow Your Own.**—Better home living means better production and consumption
- PC-10 **The Magic Carpet.**—Protection for grassland is protection for cities
- PC-11 **The Farm Home And AAA.**—Better farm income means better farm homes
- PC-12 **Country Life And AAA.**—A permanent security for farm and city

Copies of this leaflet and others in this series may be obtained upon request from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Reference Suggestions

The material in this leaflet is based on facts presented in various governmental studies and publications, including:

- "Underprivileged Groups in Agriculture."—Report of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1938, pages 59-66. U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- "Soil Conservation—Its Place in National Agricultural Policy."—G-54, Agricultural Adjustment Administration. U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- "Land Policy."—Yearbook of Agriculture, 1937, pages 22-27. U. S. Department of Agriculture.